



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 54, Issue 20

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

June 17, 2005



Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Batts

Retired Maj. Gen. Richard Comer, former chief, Office of Coalition Coordination, Headquarters U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., was the guest speaker at the 16th Special Operations Wing Dining-Out held June 10 at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. See more photos on Page 10.

'Dining-Out' Commando style

By Jamie Haig
Public Affairs

Once a year, the 16th Special Operations Wing hosts a Dining-Out, which is an opportunity for all of Hurlburt Field personnel, officers, enlisted and civilians alike to get together on a social basis.

More than 900 Airmen attended this year's event. Despite impending Tropical Storm Arlene, there was a full house at the Emerald Coast Conference center, June 10.

This year's theme was "From Burma to Baghdad: The Commando Legacy Continues," celebrating the 60th anniversary of World War II.

Encompassed in the crowd were air commandos who have participated in every conflict in those 60 years.

First Lt. Shannon Ouder was the committee chair and had been preparing for this event since January. A team of 20 people spent months doing fund-raising, arranging catering, making

table decorations, planning for the grog bowls and other details necessary for a successful event.

"The Dining-Out is an esprit de corps event. It's an opportunity for everyone to come together as a family," said Lieutenant Ouder. "Our primary focus is on the mission, but it's nice when we can spend personal time together away from work."

"This was an opportunity for everyone to relax with friends," Lieutenant Ouder said.

Several civic leaders were also invited to the event. Their representation showed the people at Hurlburt Field that the community supports everything Hurlburt Field does.

Staff Sgt. Sheryl Clark, 16th Communications Squadron, a first-time committee member, was attending the Dining-Out for the third year.

"This one was the best by far," said Sergeant Clark. "We had fun, we laughed a lot, and everyone really enjoyed being there."

See **DINING-OUT**, Page 6

Local CFC among best

By Ken Winzeler
Okaloosa & Walton County CFC

The Okaloosa-Walton County's Combined Federal Campaign earned the third highest increase nationwide in 2004 campaigns raising more than one million dollars.

The award was announced and presented by the Office of Personnel Management to Senior Master Sgt. Eric Hanson, Hurlburt Field CFC representative, and Ken Winzeler, CFC director, June 3 at the White House.

Locally, Hurlburt Field led the way with a 14 percent increase, raising a record level of \$442,851. Despite Hurricane Ivan and recent deployment of local troops, federal contributors gave approximately \$1,237,000 and earned an 11 percent increase over last year. This was the third consecutive year local contributors have given more than one million dollars.

There are many agencies that receive funding from CFC and offer assistance to the community. Mr. Winzeler needs volunteers to share their CFC story during the upcoming 2005 CFC campaign. The speakers would tell their personal experiences where CFC agencies have helped them in the past.

Those interested in speaking or would like more information, call Mr. Winzeler at 243-0315.

How Flag Day came about

Master Sgt. Derrick Parnell
505th CCW First Sergeant

On Tuesday, the 505th Command and Control Wing held a Flag Day ceremony and Reveille at 7:15 a.m. at the 505th CCW campus. The ceremony was open to any unit or individual who wanted to attend and took place at the flag poles located in front of the 505th Training Squadron, located south of the Hurlburt Field Air Park.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day, the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777, was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson May 30, 1916.

However, June 14 wasn't officially recognized as Flag Day until President Harry Truman signed an act of congress designating this day as the official National Flag Day.

In 1918, Congress adopted a creed, which stated, "I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people

See **FLAG DAY**, Page 6

COMMANDO
index

Viewpoint...2
News...3,4
Happenings...11,12

Feature... 10
Sport... 13
Classifieds...15

Weather
forecast

Today Partly Cloudy, High 87/Low 75
Saturday Partly cloudy, High 86/Low 76
Sunday Partly cloudy, High 86/Low 76

www.hurlburt.af.mil

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the

COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

Col. O.G. Mannon

Unsafe choice leads to tragic end

By Master Sgt. Dave Middleton
16th EMS

In a recent issue of the *Commando*, there was a story about an Airman who rescued a man at the beach. That story had a happy ending. This one doesn't.

May 29 started off as any Memorial Day weekend normally does. I had friends visiting from out of state, so we decided to hit the beach in the afternoon after a morning full of fun out on the water.

When we arrived at the beach that afternoon, the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue Squad and the Navarre Beach Sheriff's Department were out searching for a missing individual. Finding nothing, they called off the search.

We went about enjoying our time on the beach. About two hours later, we saw something in the water about 30 yards off the beach. At first, I thought it was a clump of seaweed. A closer look made my heart sink; it was a person.

I made my way out to the individual. I pulled him up and gave him rescue breaths as I pulled him in to shore. He was young, my guess was between 16-19 years old.

By the time I got him to the beach, I was exhausted. My wife and some other beach-goers helped bring him up on land and started CPR. Shortly thereafter, the Navarre Beach Fire Rescue team showed up and took over. About 45 minutes later, Life Flight declared him dead.

We were all shaken by the turn of events. One minute we were all enjoying a beautiful day, the next we were in the middle of an emergency.

The victim's friends and family suffered a tragic loss, and it was all avoidable. Toxicology reports came back negative for drugs and alcohol. He simply couldn't swim and got in over his head. This brings several things to mind.

First, if you can't swim, stay out of the Gulf. Second, when you do go in the Gulf, use the buddy system.

With a large group of friends, as was the case of this young man, it's easy to disappear without being noticed.

The buddy system would have alerted the group immediately when he first was in distress.

Last, but not least, physical fitness came into play here. Not with the victim, but with the rescuer.

This young man didn't weigh more than 140 pounds, but by the time I swam the 30 yards out to him and back, I was exhausted and thankful there were others who could take over once I made it back to the beach.

I asked myself, "What if there was no one else there? What if he had only been under for five or ten minutes, would I have the strength left to perform CPR by myself?" I'd like to think the answer is yes. What about you? Are you ready for an emergency?

Keep fit and stay alert because you never know when an emergency will confront you.

Without thinking first, we're lucky to be alive

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

Our office had a safety briefing with a different flavor before the Memorial Day weekend. Every other safety or operational risk management briefing I've sat through since I enlisted six years ago was vanilla: "Don't drink and drive. Only drive eight hours per day. Make sure you have whatever safety equipment you need for outdoor activities. See you next week."

This briefing was a sundae. Each of us related a story about something we'd done that might not have happened if we'd thought about it before doing it.

One of my co-workers related a story of taking an impromptu trip to do some mountain climbing. Since it was on such short notice, he didn't bother taking any gear with him and didn't do research into the area where he would be climbing.

Five hours into the climb, he found himself on an almost non-existent ledge with a sharp wind pushing up at his feet.

"That wasn't a smart position to be in," he told us. He'd given himself no choice. He either would have to press on or turn around to make the five-hour climb back to his starting point. My own story was about fatigued driving.

I was a member of the honor guard at my last base and was responsible for driving the other 11 people in our funeral detail to and from the ceremony. We'd finished the detail and were on our way back. Most of the people in the van were asleep, exhausted from wearing service dress uniforms in the scorching heat and oppressive humidity.

I was just as exhausted, but too proud to admit it or ask for someone else to drive. The van began to drift toward the right side of the road the second or third time my eyes drooped. We were all extremely lucky that I woke up when the front right tire

scraped along the side of the pavement.

The most sobering story came from the next person in our circle, who told us about a kayaking trip he took on his 21st birthday. Again, the notice was short, and he didn't give himself time to prepare. The river got choppy shortly after he and his friends began their adventure, and his kayak flipped. Rolling over on a kayak is a common occurrence, but he wasn't adequately trained to recover.

After three failed attempts to right himself, he reached for the pull cord to get out of his kayak. The pull cord was nowhere to be found. In his haste to prepare for the trip, he had tucked the cord inside the rubber skirt of his kayak.

"At the time, I thought, 'that's it, I'm dead,'" he said. He'd been submerged for about 45 seconds. He changed his mind a few seconds later and tore frantically at the kayak's skirt to free himself. After struggling for several more seconds, he pulled himself out and swam to safety.

We each shared our own harrowing tale. As we listened, we took notes about what we thought contributed to each person's situation. We chuckled as we scribbled down "foolhardiness," "lack of training" or "lack of preparation." Even as we laughed, though, we learned. Our group was small, but we each had a story that could have ended tragically.

The most important lesson I came away with is this: if you don't determine the consequences of your decision before you make it, you'll be lucky to survive the experience.

Risk management has to be more than a dusty copy of an Air Force instruction. It has to be more than an annual training requirement. It must be a constant and conscious method you use to make decisions. It's better to be smart than lucky. Be prepared: know your limits, know your surroundings and be safe. Your life depends on it.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. It's published by the Northwest Florida Daily News, a private firm that isn't connected with the U.S. Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Disclaimer

COMMANDO articles are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, doesn't constitute Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Northwest Florida Daily News endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Equal opportunity

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

COMMANDO Classified ad policy

Free classified advertisements are available to Department of Defense military members, DOD civilians and retirees and their family members only. Advertisements are for the one-time sale of personal property only and will run only once per submission. Advertisements for businesses or income producing activities may not be printed. All advertisements must be manually typed into the advertising database computer located in the public affairs office in Building 90210, Suite 326. Mailed, faxed, e-mailed, phoned-in ads, etc. won't be accepted. All ads will run on a space available basis only. Submission of an advertisement doesn't guarantee its appearance in the COMMANDO. The COMMANDO staff reserves the right to edit or refuse classified advertisements due to inappropriate content, space considerations or other reasons deemed necessary. Paid advertisements may be submitted to the Daily News at 863-1111. This is the only way to guarantee an advertisement will run in the COMMANDO.

Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday for briefs the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call.

Address information

U.S. MAIL: COMMANDO
131 Bartley Street, Suite 326
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544-5271
E-MAIL: commando@hurlburt.af.mil
TELEPHONE: (850) 884-7464 FAX: (850) 884-6093

COMMANDO Editorial Staff:

Col. O.G. Mannon	Airman 1st Class
Commander	James Dickens
Capt.	Senior Staff Writer
Thomas Knowles	Senior Airman
Chief,	Mareshah Haynes
public affairs	Staff Writer
2nd Lt.	Jamie Haig
Amy Gonzales	Layout and Design
Deputy Chief,	Staff Writer
public affairs	Staff Sgt.
Staff Sgt.	Holly Wangelin
Chris Jordan	Photography support
Chief,	Northwest Florida
internal information	Daily News
Senior Airman	Production Support
Heidi Davis	
Editor	

DUI Tracker

June 10 - June 16: 1 DUIs

This year: 13

DUIs for 2004: 42

Last DUI: 16th Security Forces Squadron, June 14

Days since last DUI:

16th OG...34

16th MXG...14

16th MSG...2

16th MDG...177

Individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of June 16.

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 294



Cheney praises 'silent professionals' Spotlight On...

By John Banusiewicz

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Praising the warriors he calls “the silent professionals,” Vice President Richard Cheney culminated International Special Forces Week here Friday, providing closing remarks for U.S. Special Operations Command’s annual conference—the first to include international partners in the Global War on Terrorism. “I had my first dealings with Special Ops while serving in the House of Representatives, when many years ago I visited Fort Bragg (N.C.) and saw a demonstration by Delta (counterterrorism force),” he said.

“Later, as secretary of defense, I saw the skills of our Special Operations Forces in action from Panama to the Persian Gulf,” he said. “And in my current role, serving with President George Bush, I see regular evidence of your unparalleled skill, your ingenuity and your daring. Every single day SOCOM confirms its reputation as a small command that produces big results for the United States of America.”

Earlier in the day, the vice president met with SOCOM and U.S. Central Command leaders for an update on various operations. He noted the evident joint service and multi-national cooperation in those operations, saying he was “thoroughly impressed by the focus and professionalism” of U.S. forces and the strong relationships they have built with host nations.

When GWOT began, Cheney recalled, Bush said it would be a different kind of war. “It may, he said, include dramatic strikes, visible on television, and covert operations, secret even when successful,” the vice president said. “Special Ops have been vital to answering some of the fundamental challenges of this war — fighting the enemy on its own turf (and) supplying a model for transformation—not only for our military, but also for coalition partners.”

A terror network acquiring weapons of mass destruction “and thereby gaining the power to kill hundreds of thousands, and to blackmail entire nations,” poses the biggest threat to civilization today, Cheney said.

“In the face of such a danger, free nations must act decisively to defend ourselves against attack, yet we also understand that this war can’t be won on the defensive,” he said. Cheney also emphasized the need for multinational cooperation in defeating the terrorist threat.

“We’re dealing with a network that has cells in countries all over the world,” he said. “Yet bit-by-bit, by diplomacy, through intelligence cooperation, police work and the spread of democratic institutions, we’re acting to shrink the area in which the terrorists can operate freely.”

“In the continuing hunt (in Afghanistan) for al Qaeda, we have men



Gen. Bryan Brown, U.S. Special Operations Command commander, talks with Air Force Special Operations Command members on the flight line at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., during USSOCOM International Special Forces Week.

working at high altitudes in the mountain range above Kandahar and Jalalabad—often operating at the upper limits of human endurance—moving calmly and patiently to deliver justice to the terrorists,” Cheney said. “And in Iraq and Afghanistan, we’re helping to train local security forces, so those nations can eventually take on the responsibility for their own security.”

Cheney said Special Operations Forces are demonstrating the value of transforming military forces from the Cold War posture to a new model for facing the threats of the 21st century.

“In Iraq and Afghanistan and other places where the fight against terror is less talked about, but still critical, such as the Philippines, the Balkans, Colombia, and the Pan Sahel region of Africa, Special Ops units have provided a glimpse of the kind of force we want to build for the future,” he said. “A military that was designed for the mid-to-late 20th century needs to be a force that is lighter, more adaptable, agile and lethal in action.”

The vice president noted that among the Special Forces Week discussions were the ways terrorists and weapons or drug traffickers try to exploit the seams between governments, and how to close up those seams through better communication and joint operations. “This is going to be a critical challenge going forward,” he said, “as we move against shadowy enemies in many countries and a variety of environments, from urban areas to jungle to desert.” The multinational audience in Tampa illustrates the world’s diversity and the common interest of the nations represented, the vice president said. “None of us wants to turn over the future of mankind to tiny groups of fanatics committing indiscriminate murder and plotting large-scale horror,” he said. “And so, we must direct every resource necessary to defending the peace and freedom of our world and the safety of the people we serve. That’s the commitment of the United States that we’ve made to ourselves and to other nations. And with good allies at our side,

we’ll see this cause through to victory.”

Cheney noted the variety of skills involved in Special Operations. “It’s difficult to put into words the intensity of your training, the hazards of your hardest assignments, and the speed of thought and action that are needed at the tip of the spear,” he said. “You’re the ones who can go into unfamiliar territory and become part of the environment — preparing battle spaces, learning languages and cultures, building relationships and picking up intelligence.

“Special Operators are the ones who hunt down, engage, kill and capture enemies,” he continued, “yet also set up hospitals, call in humanitarian aid and help villages to become self-sufficient—leaving behind you men, women, and children who feel gratitude for your kindness and good will for our country. Special operations, it’s been said, play every role from warrior to physician to diplomat to engineer. And at times, you have to switch from one role to other in the blink of an eye.”

But Special Operators, he said, do that work under a blanket of secrecy. “It’s also in the nature of your business that the best work goes unrecognized until years after the fact, if ever, and we may never know all the grief that has been spared because of you,” he said. “I can only say, with complete certainty, that your efforts are paying off — and today all of us live in a world made safer by your actions.”



Vice President Richard Cheney speaks during the closing ceremonies of USSOCOM International Special Forces Week.

Staff Sgt. James Collier

Organization/Duty

Title: Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command/Status of Resources and Training Technician

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Hobbies: Golf and computer games

Contribution to the mission: Sergeant Collier is a silent warrior. As the AFSOC Designed Operational Capabilities Statement manager, he developed a tracking program on the status of 121 active duty and gained Guard and Reserve DOC statements. He significantly improved accountability and decreased the time draft DOC statements spent in coordination. All AFSOC DOC statements reach the units in record time ensuring the Joint Chiefs of Staff receives the information needed for assessing AFSOC’s war-fighting capabilities. He is also a physical training leader, ensuring AF standards are met.

(Editor’s Note: The Commando highlights Airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition.)

Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the “Spotlight on...” column.)

Meet the New Commander

Lt. Col. Phil Locklear

Organization:

16th Operations Support Squadron

Hometown:

Maxton, N.C.

Off-duty time is for:

Family

Previous

Assignment:

16th OSS Director of Operations

Organizational

Goals:

Focus diverse 16th OSS on providing mission support to all elements of the 16th Operations Group.

Work Philosophy:

Work together as a team to support the organization as a whole.

Wing unites communicators, forms new squadron

By Sandra Henry
919th SOW Public Affairs

The 919th Mission Support Group lost a flight, but gained a squadron June 5, when approximately 70 communicators from five different areas within the wing consolidate under the 919th Communications Squadron.

The 919th Mission Support Flight Communications and Information Systems section, the 719th Communications Flight, the 919th Operations Support Squadron Communications Flight, the 919th MSF visual information section and one person from the 919th Special Operations Wing Command Post merged into the newly formed squadron.

Col. Deborah Inman, 919th MSG commander, got the ball rolling in September 2003, when she drafted an organization change request to higher headquarters listing the benefits of consolidation, said Senior Master Sgt. David Craig, SCB functional area chief.

The benefits included better employment of fragmented communications assets; alignment of the communications function according to Air Force instructions; better utilization by the gaining command, Air Force Special Operations Command; a boost to morale and retention through a more visible career enhancement path, he said.

Since the consolidation required the deactivation of the 719th CF and the creation of a squadron, approval by the Air Staff at the Pentagon was required. That can be a long process, said Sergeant Craig.

Sergeant Craig was assigned to the wing in December. His mandate from Colonel Inman and Col. Mark Kyle,

wing commander, was to keep tabs on the consolidation's progress and ensure the process moved forward.

"My job was to facilitate with the intent to make it happen," said Sergeant Craig.

A big push for the consolidation was triggered by the 719th CF's need for a wartime tasking when their gaining command changed from Air Combat Command to AFSOC in October 2003 and AFSOC's desire to expand the wing's role in tactical communications, said Sergeant Craig.

The new role for most of the 719th CF's 30-plus members is tactical communications. They joined with more than 20 members of the 919th OSS CF who currently perform the mission. They became the 919th Tactical CF, one of three flights in the 919th CS.

SCT is composed of two large sections, radio operations and radio maintenance. The flight gained new missions in support of AFSOC war taskings, but the primary mission will remain the same, said Master Sgt. Laurie Klausutis, 919th OSS CF NCO in charge of radio maintenance.

"Our primary mission is to deploy five-person teams with any type of Special Operations Forces aircraft," she said. "We maintain in-flight contact with the mission aircraft for the commander on the ground. We receive mission updates and relay information via air-to-ground radio communications."

While SCT is geared to war fighting in theater, the mission of the other two flights is closer to home.

The 919th Communications and Information Systems Flight, or SCB, is manned with about 13 people and looks a lot like SCB did, said Sergeant Craig.

The flight is primarily responsible for day-to-day base support: records, web management, mail, computer procurement and distribution, local area networking, and visual information. Although base support is primary, the flight will include a few mobility positions.

The 919th Communications Plans Flight, the smallest of the three flights, has about nine people assigned. Their responsibilities include squadron plans and management functions, said Sergeant Craig.

"One of our initial duties is to identify and cross-train personnel to match our current force structure with AFSOC's mobilization requirements. We are estimating approximately 10 members will have to cross-train, and the recruiting of radio operators will have to increase due to consolidation and mission requirements, but current manning will remain about the same," he said. One addition, however, is the commander.

Maj. R. Brian "Rizzo" Risner, formerly the 919th OSS Communications Flight chief, will return to Duke Field after a short tour as an individual mobilization augmentee to lead the 919th CS.

"It's an exciting time for the communicators at Duke Field," said Major Risner. "Reuniting as a cohesive, focused unit will enable us to better prepare ourselves for our expanding role as one of AFSOC's premier communications units."

"The consolidation will allow us to provide both the wing and AFSOC with one-stop shopping for all their communications needs," he said. "We remain totally committed to providing all our customers the quality service and support they have come to expect from our dedicated Reservists."

For military retirees, families, planning can save heartache

DENVER – For some, the idea of death is an unpleasant one. Unfortunately, the failure to plan can cause additional stress for spouses and families when they're least able to cope with it.

"Families can get overwhelmed when tragedy strikes," said Navy Capt. Karl Bernhardt, Retired and Annuitant Pay for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service director.

"Many of the retirees we support have families who are left with unfinished business when the retiree passes away. Unfortunately, many have no idea that action is required to notify DFAS of the death in order to avoid

overpayments of retired pay."

In addition to maintaining the pay accounts of active and reserve military members, DFAS administers the Military Retirement Fund and pays approximately two million retirees each month.

"We make every effort to strike a balance," Captain Bernhardt said. "On one hand, we need to make sure each retiree is paid the right amount on time. On the other, we have a responsibility to safeguard the fund on behalf of the American taxpayers. When a retiree dies, his or her entitlement to retired pay ends and any payments made after that must be recovered."

DFAS is required to recov-

er all overpayments. In many cases, this means simply transferring funds from the retiree's bank account back to DFAS.

However, if the funds have been spent or distributed, debt collection efforts can be initiated to reclaim the money. This can be especially difficult for elderly spouses.

When a military retiree dies, a number of federal, state and local agencies have procedures for notifying DFAS.

These include the Social Security Administration, Veteran's Administration, military service casualty assistance offices, and state and local veteran affairs

offices. Overpayments occur when spouses and families fail to contact these agencies, or DFAS itself, and notify them that the deceased was a military retiree.

The casualty assistance offices of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps encourage retirees to develop a checklist for their spouse and families to help them navigate the difficult transition when the retiree dies.

Most military base casualty assistance or retired affairs offices can help in completing this list, or lists can be downloaded from the Internet from service and veteran organization Web sites.

Captain Bernhardt said

that a few hours spent gathering the information for the list will save months of aggravation and grief later on.

"The checklist can be kept with a retiree's will and other legal documents. When the time comes and those documents are needed, the checklist is ready to guide the survivors through the legal and governmental processes. I would recommend putting the notification of DFAS near the top of the list."

For more information, visit www.dod.mil/dfas/money/retired/ or call (800) 321-1080. The customer contact center is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Eastern Standard time.

Are you or people you know Ethnorelative?

By Capt. Kenneth Mercier
MEO Chief

The last two months, we defined diversity as a composite of racial, gender, ethnic, national origin, cultural, attitudinal, socio-economic and personal differences.

Last month we defined the Ethnocentric stage of Diversity Awareness in great detail. This month, we'll be focusing exclusively on the Ethnorelative stage of Diversity Awareness.

There are three elements to the Ethnorelative stage of Diversity Awareness: Acceptance of Differences; Adaptation to Differences; Integration of Differences.

Acceptance of Differences. Individuals in this stage acknowledge and respect diversity. They recognize and appreciate differences in behavior and values. Also, they understand verbal/non-verbal behaviors vary across cultures and are worthy of respect.

Some strategies to move from this stage are to emphasize recognition and respect for differences; focus on acceptance, while beginning to build

upon respect; participate in values clarification activities.

Adaptation of Differences. Individuals in this stage have achieved a high level of sensitivity to diversity. They're able to shift their cultural frame of reference for the purpose of communication. They've developed communication skills that enable effective communication among people who are different. They have learned to go beyond empathy to internalize other cultural frames of reference.

Some strategies to move from this stage are greater empathy training and practice and increasingly challenging opportunities to interact with diverse populations.

Integration of Differences. Individuals in this stage have achieved the ultimate level of diversity awareness. They have the ability to analyze and evaluate situations from more than one perspective. They operate outside of all cultural frames of reference.

Individuals in the Integration stage, although they have achieved the zenith in cultural awareness, still must cultivate diversity awareness – this

isn't the end of learning. The next task is to construct new continua that stretch in directions beyond our current vision, looking into the future of diversity and where we're headed as a nation, and as the U.S. Air Force.

With what you now know about the Ethnorelative stage of Diversity Awareness, where do you stand? Are you a champion for Diversity? Have you accepted, adapted or integrated diversity awareness? Are you working toward those ends for your troops? If not, my recommendation to you and others is to employ the strategies suggested above, with the end goal being integration of differences, and beyond.

Our military is the most culturally diverse organization in the world. The more we know about each other, our backgrounds and our values, and the more we integrate differences, the more effective a fighting force we'll become.

This concludes MEO's three-part series on Diversity Awareness.

For more information on diversity, call Capt. Kenneth Mercier at 884-7888 or Master Sgt. Norman Williams at 884-6844.

ARMED FORCES COMM INC
CS/HOMELAND HERO
584733
5 X 7.00

DINING-OUT,
Continued from Page 1

After a welcome reception, the Airmen were treated to a video depicting the 20 conflicts Air Commandos have participated in since World War II. Dinner was served, then the fun began with the grog bowl and the Spirit Award contest.

The grog bowl is a collection of various items the "violators of the rules of the mess and breaches of protocol and etiquette" must drink in front of the entire crowd.

The various ingredients were combined into two toilet bowls. After drinking the concoction, the offenders must then place their upended glass on their heads. No one was safe from the grog bowl.

The Spirit Award is given to the squadron who demonstrates vocally who is the best squadron at the event.

The 16th Mission Support Group, led by Colonel Skip Day, 16th MSG commander, were this year's Spirit Award winners. The group's commander stood on his table to encourage his troops to be louder than the rest. It paid off.

Lt. Col. Patrick Welch, Air Force Special Operations Command Safety office director, participates in these events whenever possible.

"I believe they're an important part of military life, and that our traditions need to be preserved and experienced," said Colonel Welch.

"This was by far the largest event of this kind that I have attended due to the size of the 16th SOW, compared to the other organizations I've been associated with in my career."

Staff Sgt. Laura Bell, 16th SOW command section, was another committee member in charge of fund raising and the ticket point of contact.

"This was the first time I have experienced this type of event," said Sergeant Bell. "The showing of the spirit was the best part of the evening."

Lieutenant Ouder, committee chair, encourages Airmen to participate next year, whether part of the committee or as a guest.

"This year differed from the rest because of the small details. It's an experience that every Airman should experience," she said.

FLAG DAY, Continued from Page 1

whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed. A democracy within a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union; one and inseparable; established on the principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity, for which American patriots have sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe that it's my duty to my country; to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag and to defend it against all enemies."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Holly Wangelin

The 505th Command and Control Wing conducts a Flag Day ceremony and Reveille at the 505th CCW campus Tuesday.

**DOROTHY'S
HAIR CARE
CS/WIGS**

**CROWN CARPET CLEAN-
ERS
CS RHP/DON'T GET**

**EGLIN BASE EXCH/AAFEES
CS/EMERALD COAST
584734
3 X 5.75**

**DAVID G
THOMPSON/GEICO
CS/AUTO INS
580619
2 X 7.00**

Week in History

The following is a list of extraordinary events in military history that occurred this week:

June 13, 1962 – An H-43B helicopter set a new world's distance record of 656.258 miles.

June 14, 1912 – Cpl. Vernon Burge became the Army's first enlisted pilot.

June 15, 1944 – Forty-seven B-29s made the first B-29 strike against Japan.

June 16, 1928 – Superchargers to provide sea level air pressure to internal combustion engines at 30,000 feet were successfully tested.

June 17, 1942 – In tests, Army Air Force planes successfully picked up gliders.

Emergency Data Cards transition to online format

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas

– After decades of Airmen updating emergency contact information in their personnel records, everyone is now required to update the information online from home or work rather than visiting their military personnel flights.

Effective immediately MPFs are no longer required to print and file a paper copy of the Virtual Record of Emergency Data form in each Airman's personnel record.

The paperless form provides the Air Force with information needed to contact family members if an Airman suffers a serious illness or injury or dies while on active duty.

The vRED, which replaced the *DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data in 2003*, is required to be kept updated by each individual.

Now, the only way to update an Airman's emergency data is by visiting the virtual MPF online.

Airmen who don't have access to a vMPF account, such as new accessions or basic trainees, must still complete a *DD Form 93* until they establish an online account, said Maj. Yancey Cowen, chief of the casualty services branch at the Air Force

Personnel Center here.

"The biggest advantage is convenience for the customer," he said. "Airmen won't have to stand in line at the MPF to make simple changes to their contact information."

Airmen are required to keep their vREDs current at all times and review their contact data at least annually, said Major Cowen.

Also, every Airman must review their vRED during in-processing and prior to all deployments.

"Accurate and current family contact information can prevent delays in notifications and perhaps benefits for Airmen and family members," Major Cowen said.

Personnel officials encourage all active-duty, Guard and Reserve members to update their information every six months. Civil service employees are also encouraged to update their virtual Emergency Data System contact information as needed for the same reasons.

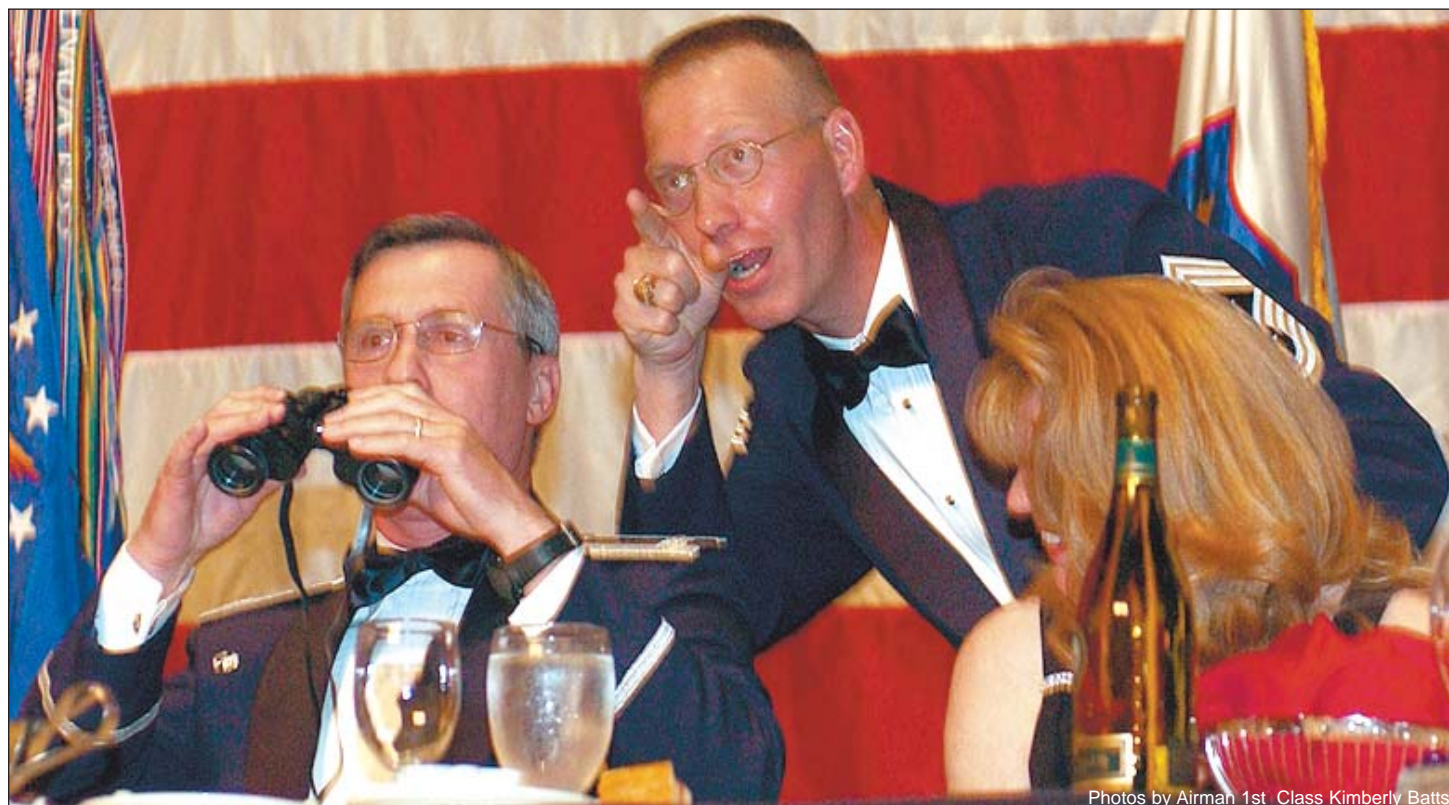
Both online applications take about 15 minutes to complete, and ask questions such as who are the relatives who should be contacted and what are their addresses. For more information, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/.

LIGHT-
HOUSE OF
FAITH

YON'S ALTERATIONS
CS/ALTERATIONS
563190

LINENS FOR LESS
CS/MOVING SALE
580620
3 X 10.00

DINING-OUT, Continued from Page 1



Photos by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Batts

The 16th Special Operations Wing commander, peers across the room at the Mr. and Mrs. Vice table with the 16th SOW command chief, during the Air Commando Dining-Out Friday. More than 900 people attended the Dining-Out which was held at the Emerald Coast Conference Center.

16th SOW Dining-Out

'Burma to Baghdad: The Commando Legacy Continues'



The 16th SOW vice commander, shows his beverage from the grog bowl is empty by placing it on his head upside down.



The 16th Medical Group commander, explains to the guests how the hospital has been saving "lab specimens" for the last year in order to be placed into the grog bowl. The "specimens" turned out to be Jell-O, and not at all harmful if swallowed.



The 16th SOW/CV (far left), the 16th SOW/CC, the madam vice, and the 16th SOW command chief take their turns at the grog bowl during the Dining-Out Friday.

Hurlburt Happenings

Military

Changes of command

A change-of-command ceremony will be held at the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Unit hangar today at 10 a.m., when Lt. Col. William Preaskorn will relinquish command of the 16th Operations Support Squadron to Lt. Col. Phil Locklear. UOD is BDUs.

A change-of-command ceremony will be held at the Air Park Monday at 9 a.m., when Maj. Douglas Hardman will assume command of the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, from Col. Skip Day, 16th Mission Support Group commander, on behalf of Lt. Col. William Kolakowski, who can't be present due to operational considerations. UOD is BDUs.

A change-of-command ceremony will be held at the Air Park Thursday at 9 a.m., when Maj. Jaimie Pease will relinquish command of the 16th Mission Support Squadron to Maj. Jesse Johnson. UOD is BDUs. Alternate, inclement weather, location will be the Soundside club.

A change-of-command ceremony will be held at Freedom Hangar June 24 at 9 a.m., when Lt. Col. Stuart Lum will relinquish command of the 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron to Lt. Col. Mary Behne. UOD is BDUs.

A change-of-command ceremony will be held at the Soundside club ballroom June 24 at 10 a.m., when Lt. Col. Randy Brawley will relinquish command of the 705th Training Squadron to Lt. Col. Rolanda Burnett. UOD is BDUs.

A change-of-command ceremony will be held at Commando Hanger June 27 at 9 a.m., when Lt. Col. Mark Hicks will relinquish command of the 14th Weapons Squadron to Lt. Col. Chris Kaufman. UOD is BDUs.

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group Clinic will be closed today at 11 a.m. for an official function and will reopen Monday.

Asian-Pacific course

The U.S. Special Operations School invites all Special Operators to attend the Asia-Pacific Orientation Course from June 27 to July 1. The course is designed for anyone preparing to live in or deploy to the Asian-Pacific region, those who are from the region or have an analytical interest in the region. Registration begins June 27 at 7:30 a.m. For more information, call Capt. Jae Sim at 884-1858 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou/>.

Cultural course

The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School invites all Special Operations personnel to attend a Cross Cultural Communications Course from June 27 to July 1. The course is designed for personnel preparing to live in or deploy overseas, who work with international military personnel and those with a professional or analytical interest in international studies. For more information, call Capt. Apryl Cymbal at 884-4472 or visit www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou/.

N.Y. Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of

the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1C3X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3A&B, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 2S0X2, 2T2X1, 2T332B, 3E0X1, 3E0X2, 3E1X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X3, 3E7X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 3S0X1, 4A0X1, 4N0X1, 4N0X1, 4A251 and 6F051. For more information, call (800) 524-5070 or visit www.skibird.com.

Puerto Rico ANG

The Puerto Rico Air National Guard is seeking qualified members who are separating or applying for palace chase, might be moving to Puerto Rico and looking to continue their service on a part-time basis. More specifically, the Puerto Rico ANG is seeking pilots, navigators, flight engineers and loadmasters who are currently qualified on C-130s. For more information, call Master Sgt. William Andujar at 884-2729 or Master Sgt. Joseph Mendez at DSN 740-9202.

Community

Claims

Anyone with a claim for or against Maj. Brian Downs, 6th Special Operations Squadron, should call 1st Lt. Eric Bernkopf at 884-8382/5136.

Anyone with a claim for or against Capt. Derek Argel, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, should call 1st Lt. Anna Hamman at 884-5191 or 581-0228.

Anyone with a claim for or against Capt. Jeremy Fresques, 23rd STS, should call 1st Lt. Cynthia Strickland at 884-5191 or (757) 927-4808.

Anyone with a claim for or against Staff Sgt. Casey Crate, 23rd STS, should call Capt. Morgan D'Olympia at 881-2717 or 862-1737.

Religious representatives

The 16th Special Operations Wing chapel is looking for points of contact for Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, Orthodox and Latter Day Saints faiths. Those interested in helping ensure these faiths are represented at Hurlburt Field should call Master Sgt. Salvador Manalang at 884-7795.

Scholarship contest

Air Force Clubs is giving away \$25,000 in scholarships. Six scholarships will be awarded, with the top prize of \$6,000, for higher education costs. Scholarships will be awarded based on a 500-word essay entitled "My Hero and Why" (essays exceeding 500 words will be disqualified).

Entries must be submitted to either J.R. Rockers (club membership window) or the Soundside club by July 15. Current Air Force Club members and their families who have been accepted by or are enrolled in an accredited college or university for entry during the fall 2005 term as a part-time or full-time student are eligible. For more information, visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/basewide/services/links.html>.

Dental assisting class

The 96th Medical Group at Eglin Air Force Base is now accepting applications for the American Red Cross Dental Assisting class. The next class is scheduled to start July 11 and contin-

ue through the end of the year. Those interested should visit the Eglin AFB dental clinic to apply.

Bicycle claim

The 16th Security Forces Squadron Investigations Section has numerous bicycles that were seized as abandoned property from the Hurlburt Field dormitories May 25. If you think any of these bicycles belong to you, call 884-7705. Proof of ownership must be presented upon claiming bicycles.

Volunteer

EEO counselor

Hurlburt Field is in need of a collateral equal employment opportunity counselor to set up and run an EEO program for the base. It would involve establishing and publicizing a new program, being the base alternative dispute resolution champion, assisting employees with discrimination complaint issues and keeping the commander apprised of EEO issues. Those interested should provide a résumé to Gary Stewart at 884-5219.

FSC volunteer opportunities

The family support center has many volunteer opportunities available through its volunteer resource program office. Some opportunities include the Loan Closet, Airman's Attic and Meals on Wheels. For more information, call Dee Dee Rodriguez at 884-1533.

Chapel help

The Hurlburt Field Chapel is looking for a list of five to 10 volunteers who would be available to help answer phones for three hours per week on days when the receptionist is on leave. For more information, call Senior Airman John McIntosh or Andy Ramos at 884-7795.

Hurlburt Toastmasters

Anyone interested in joining the Hurlburt Toastmasters club can attend regular meetings Wednesdays at noon in Classroom J of the education center.

Toastmasters can help individuals improve and develop their speaking, listening and leadership skills through a mutually supportive and positive learning environment. For more information, call Marty Mears at 884-3050 or visit <http://hurlburt.freetoasthost.org>.

Classes

HAWC classes

The following classes are available at the health and wellness center:

Running Shoe Clinic - Monday, 1 p.m.

Eating Heart Healthy - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

Fitness 101 - Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Fitness Improvement Program Follow Up - Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program Follow Up - Tuesday, 2 p.m.

Lean & Healthy Eating - Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Customs & Courtesies

Cell phone etiquette while in uniform



According to *Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Table 2.6*, cell phone use is prohibited while Air Force personnel are walking around in uniform.

Also, cell phones must be solid or covered in black, silver, dark blue or gray and must be conservative.

It may be clipped to waistbands or purses or carried in the left hand. Only one phone may be worn on the uniform belt. Hands-free isn't authorized.

Look who's new in pink, blue...



Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September – May
Protestant Services
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)
11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)
Religious Education: August – May
Youth and Singles groups available
Jewish Services (882-2111)
Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m.,
Eglin Chapel Center
Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin
Chapel Center
Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.
For more information, call 884-7795.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children.
Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field

Friday and Sunday

Amityville Horror (R)

Saturday

A Lot Like Love (PG-13)

Eglin Air Force Base

Friday and Sunday

House of Wax (R)

Saturday

XXX: State of Union (PG-13)

For up-to-date movie schedules, call Hurlburt Field at 884-7648 or Eglin Air Force Base at 882-1066.
For movie information, visit www.aafes.com/ems/conus/hurlburt.htm.

**N.E.W. CUS-
TOMER SER-
VICE
CS/HELP
WANTED
584544
1 X 5.00**

**MILITARY MEDIA
CS/ORDINARY PEOP
583504
2 X 5.00**

**16TH/SERV-SVK
CS RHP/SOUND OF
584442
2 X 5.00**

Commando players golden at volleyball tournament

By Master Sgt. Kevin Owen
19th SOS

Bump, set, spike is the mantra of every volleyball player in the world, and for three Hurlburt field players it led to a gold medal at the Armed Forces Volleyball Tournament at Fort Carson, Colo., May 16.

Capt. Dave Baumgartner, 15th Special Operations Squadron, Master Sgt. Sam Nimpchaimanatham, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Staff Sgt. Jeff Hollaway, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, were among twelve volleyball players from all over the Air Force chosen for their athletic and teamwork skills to compete.

All three attended the grueling three week Air Force volleyball tryout and camp at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii prior to the tournament.

"This was the greatest experience I've had as an athlete, said Sergeant Hollaway. "It was not just about winning the gold," he said. "The teamwork and the camaraderie were incredible.

"It felt great just being a part

of the team," said Sergeant Hollaway.

Captain Baumgartner honed his volleyball skills at the Air Force Academy while Sergeant Nimpchaimanatham mastered the game over the past twenty years playing at all levels during his Air Force travels.

Sergeant Hollaway started playing seriously eight years ago while stationed in Germany.

The tourney was a demanding double elimination round robin with each team playing squads from the other services twice.

The Air Force suffered only one defeat while winning most of their matches handily.

Sergeant Nimpchaimanatham was selected to the all tournament team as a setter.

"Sam had an incredible tournament and was one of the main reasons the Air Force team was so successful," said Sergeant Hollaway.

"If there would've been an award for the best blocker in the tournament," he said, "Captain Baumgartner would have been the pick for sure."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan

Pilot turned 'Cowboy' visits

Senior Airman Lakeith Manson, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, watches as Chad Hennings, a former U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, A-10 pilot and three-time Super Bowl winner as a defensive lineman for the Dallas Cowboys, autographs football memorabilia. Mr. Hennings appeared at J.R. Rockers June 9 to meet Team Hurlburt after a base tour.

Tennis club

The Hurlburt Field Tennis Club is playing every Wednesday starting in June from 5 to 7 p.m. at the tennis courts beside the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School.

The tennis club is an informal group of people interested in playing tennis and requires one can of new tennis balls to join. The play will consist of eight game pro sets with no add scoring. All players will move up or down and switch partners. The club is open to all Hurlburt Field personnel. For more information, e-mail Vicki Helton at vicki.helton@hurlburt.af.mil.

Cheerleading clinic

Youth programs will hold a summer cheerleading clinic for youth ages 6 and up July 9 from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Commando Fitness Center. Cost is \$15 per youth. Register no later than today at the youth center. For more information, call 884-6355.

Pilates classes

As of June 1, the Pilates class at the Riptide Fitness Center has been moved to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:10 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. The Aderholt Fitness Center also offers a Pilates class Tuesdays and

Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. For the latest schedule of classes, call or visit any of the three fitness centers.

Also, the 16th Services Squadron posts a monthly schedule on the Web at www.hurlburt.af.mil/basewide/services/schedule.html.

Coaches needed

Youth sports is seeking volunteers interested in coaching youth soccer and flag football. Openings are available for all age groups (5-13 for soccer, 6-14 for flag football). Stop by the youth center for a packet or for more information, call 884-6355.

Upcoming playoffs, sports

The intramural soccer playoffs will begin next week and will be played at the Aderholt Fitness Center's soccer field.

Intramural volleyball is still going with playoffs scheduled for the end of July. Horseshoes will begin in September. For more information about sporting activities, call Jim Harriot at 884-6949.

Cheerleading registration

Cheerleading registration runs July 1 through Aug. 1 (ages 6 and up) to support the flag football and basketball teams. Cost is \$20 per person. Participants will receive a

T-shirt, certificate and memento (uniform not included).

A parents' meeting is scheduled at 6 p.m., Aug. 17, at the base theater. For more information, call 884-6355.

Youth sports registration

Soccer and Flag football registration will be held July 1 through Aug. 1. Practice begins Aug. 22. Games will be played Sept. 17 through Nov. 29. Cost is \$45 per player or \$90 for two or more players in the same family.

Soccer players must be ages 5-14 as of Aug. 31. Soccer evaluations will be conducted Aug. 9 at the large soccer field by age groups: ages 8-9 at 5:30 p.m.; ages 10-11 at 6 p.m.; ages 12-14 at 6:30 p.m.

Flag football players must be ages 7-15 as of Aug. 31. Games will be played at the Fort Walton Beach YMCA. Flag football evaluations will be conducted Aug. 15 on Field 4 at the Community Park by age groups: ages 7-8 at 5:30 p.m.; ages 9-10 at 6 p.m.; ages 11-15 at 6:15 p.m.

All youth participating in the youth sports program must have an annual physical examination, and provide a copy of their birth certificate or military identification card. For more information, call 884-6355.

